(a) whether lesser impact of recession on India's economy can be mainly attributed to its being agri-based;

(b) whether consumption of Indian products has decreased in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to push up exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per the Advance Estimates of National income released by Central Statistical Organisation, the Gross Domestic Product at constant prices is estimated to grow at 7.1 per cent for the year 2008-09, as compared to 9.0 per cent in 2007-08. The Agriculture, Industry and Services sectors are estimated to grow at 2.6 per cent, 4.8 per cent and 9.6 per cent respectively during 2008-09. The corresponding growth rates during 2007-08 for Agriculture, Industry and Services sectors were 4.9 per cent, 8.1 per cent and 9.6 per cent. The share of Agriculture, Industry and Services sectors were 17.8 per cent, 26.5 per cent and 55.7 per cent of GDP, respectively, for 2007-08. While India remains one of the less affected economies of the global financial crisis, it is seen that there has been an impact of the crisis on the Indian exports as well. The growth of exports (in US dollar terms) during April-December, 2008 was 17.1 per cent as compared to 23.5 per cent in April-December, 2007-08, *inter-alia* on account of a slowdown in the demand in developed markets.

(c) To mitigate the effects of global slowdown and recession, the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) took a number of monetary easing and liquidity enhancing measures including reduction in cash reserve ratio, statutory liquidity ratio and key policy rates. The Government has also announced specific measures to address the impact of global slowdown on India's exports. These *inter alia,* include interest subvention on pre and post shipment credit, additional allocation for refund of Terminal Excise Duty/CST and for export incentive schemes, extension of Duty Entitlement Pass-Book Scheme till 31.12.2009, Government back-up guarantee to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation to the extent of Rs. 350 crores, and removal of export duty and export ban on certain items. A Committee of Secretaries has been set up to address, on continuing basis, procedural problems being faced by exporters.

Increase in fiscal deficit due to spending spree by Government

1069. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had spent more than two lakh crores during the two months after global economic slowdown;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has resulted in the widening of the fiscal deficit;

(c) if so, the level of increase in the fiscal deficit; and

(d) the reasons for this sudden development and the effects of this huge spending on the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The total expenditure provisions of Rs. 7,50,884 crore in Budget Estimates (BE) 2008-09 has been revised to Rs. 9,00,953 crore in the Revised Estimates (RE) 2008-09 showing an increase of Rs. 1,50,069 crore. This additionality has been approved through the Supplementary Demands for Grants 2008-09. The actual expenditure booked during the period October, 2008 to December, 2008 and the resultant fiscal deficit is as follows:—

Period	Progressive expenditure	Fiscal Deficit
At the end of October, 2008	408395	117070
At the end of November, 2008	494124	176510
At the end of December, 2008	597216	218262

(c) and (d) The fiscal deficit estimated at Rs. 1,33,287 crore at 2.5% of GDP in BE 2008-09 is projected to increase of Rs. 3,26,515 crore at 6.0% of GDP in RE 2008-09. Post budget developments on the international front, including a sudden upward spiral in commodity prices, especially, mineral oils, edible oils, and ores, and the outbreak of an unprecedented global financial crises, resulted in Government having to take several fiscal, monetary and administrative measures to reduce the impact of inflationary pressures and help support domestic demand in the economy. These measures constitute a substantial counter-cyclical stimulus which is expected to sustain the economic growth momentum in 2009-10.

Operation of Credit Rating Agencies

1070. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of credit rating agencies operating in India, presently;

(b) salient obligations entailed to licenses granted to these agencies, including accountability for failure to accord ratings on realistic basis;

(c) the details of the authorities who oversee the conduct of the rating agencies, indicating the relevant rules/guidelines governing their conduct;

(d) instances, if any, of unrealistic ratings of companies/financial instruments conferred by the rating agencies since their advent in India;

(e) the actions taken in respective cases;

(f) the details of ratings conferred, if any, on Satyam Computer Services Ltd. and/or its scripts; and

(g) the name of the agency(ies)?